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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1181

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study state government's procurement system for information technology commodity items and services.

WHEREAS, state procurement and information technology executives recognize the need to improve the current state procurement process for information technology hardware, software, and services; and

WHEREAS, enhancements in Tennessee's procurement practices for information technology can save taxpayers money by increasing the flexibility of purchases, making it possible for agencies to take advantage of the ongoing price and performance improvements that take place in one of the most volatile and fastest-changing industries in the world; and

WHEREAS, many states have demonstrated the benefits gained from implementing procurement reforms; and

WHEREAS, a reformed procurement system can spur on the economic well-being of Tennessee by increasing its ability to attract business through the use of up-to-

date procurement tools, such as electronic commerce and electronic bidding systems;
and

WHEREAS, a reformed procurement system can expand and enhance the delivery of services to citizens and businesses in Tennessee by speeding the implementation of automated systems that provide information and services to citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the report of National Association of State Information Resource Executives (NASIRE) and the National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO) on procurement reform identifies certain changes that can save millions of dollars; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study state government's procurement system for information technology commodity items and services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; three (3) members of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate, and the Comptroller of the Treasury or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That during the course of its deliberations the special joint committee shall seek to identify ways and means to implement reform goals for state government's procurement of information technology goods and services, including, but not limited to, the following goals:

- (1) Simplifying the procurement of information technology commodity items and services in order for the state and its political

subdivisions to benefit from the values and savings brought on by the marketplace, so that benefits of technology can be realized without delay and the cost of the acquisition can be minimized for both agency users and procurement staff;

(2) Building an infrastructure for electronic commerce in order to create a cost-effective and efficient method for ordering goods and services, for reaching a much larger number of bidders and for increasing the competition for high-quality goods and services;

(3) Procuring information technology based on best value, not lowest price, in order to ensure that expensive and complex computer systems are built with the highest level of quality, reliability, and support from vendors;

(4) Developing beneficial partnerships with vendors in order to share risk and add value to the procurement of complex technology, and to promote a better understanding of state government needs and to allow for an ongoing assessment of how the vendor is performing and to make improvements based on the assessment; and

(5) Using solicitations for bid to define a business problem in order that vendors can offer innovative solutions rather than simply to specify the details of the final product and so that vendors will offer a technology solution of their own design, based on their high level of expertise, that they believe will work, making them more willing to share in the project's risk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly no later than February 15, 2003, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House is directed to transmit a certified copy of the special joint committee's final report to the Commissioner of Finance and Administration and the Commissioner of General Services.